

Arts and the Achievement Gap - Keynote Address

The Elementary and Secondary Education Act allows states and local school districts flexibility to use Title 1 funds to support arts education as a strategy to assist Title 1 students with meeting the state's academic achievement standards. This is great news, as arts integration can aid in the promotion of an optimal learning environment for Title 1 students. Music, art, dance, and drama can reinforce student comprehension, accelerate students' learning, increase achievement levels, and perhaps most importantly, engage students in their own learning. In order for arts integration to be effective, however, Title 1 teachers need practical and well-established strategies on which they can rely. It is essential for Title 1 teachers to feel comfortable and confident with the arts instruction they present.